

2nd. nest.	{	Maximum	...	0.69"	×	0.54"
		Minimum	...	0.64"	×	0.53"
		Average	...	0.66"	×	0.53"

The call of the bird is most characteristic and peculiar, of 3 or 4 notes only, loud for the size of the bird, and insistent.

116, BANBURY ROAD,
OXFORD, ENGLAND.
January 10, 1932.

B. B. OSMASTON, C.I.E.

X.—NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF BALUCHISTAN.

27-8-31 to 1-9-31.—**Nutcracker.** (*Nucifraga* sp.) Takler Suleiman and Kaiser Garh range near Fort Sandeman, very common indeed in pine forest though not previously recorded in Baluchistan. Apparently the Kashmir variety, as its body is markedly more white-spotted than that of the bird with which I am very familiar in the Alps and have met on the Thibet border.

Crows. (*Corvus* sp.)—Same time and place; black crows were also common and apparently not previously recorded in Baluchistan.

Turtle Doves. Same time and place.—Several. I am uncertain which. Back vinous-red heavily marked with black. No white collar on neck that I could detect: tips of tail feathers apparently pale grey and not white.

6-7-31.—**Pheasant-tailed Jacana.** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*)—Khushdil Khan reservoir; only one previously recorded in Quetta district.

24-11-29.—**Red-breasted Merganser.** (*Mergus serrator*)—Khushdil Khan reservoir. Female (shot and identified)—only once previously recorded in Quetta district.

2-5-31.—**Indian Spotted Owlet.** (*Athene brama*)—on 'maidan' below Murdar.

4-12-29.—**Jackdaws.** (*Corvus monedula*)—some in a flock of rooks. Definitely no white collar. (I am familiar with 'collaris' in Turkey.)

Choughs. Here the *Birds of Baluchistan* appears to be astray. The 'bird of the highest hills' is invariably the Yellow-billed or Alpine Chough, a bird with which I am very familiar in the Alps and in Thibet. It is exceedingly common in both winter and summer at high altitudes and I have watched hundreds of them when stalking Markhor in the spring on Khangat, Takatu, Langlum and all the high mountains of Baluchistan. The Red-billed Chough on the other hand (as in Thibet) is the bird of the high plateaux. I have only seen it once or twice in the summer (August) and then no higher than 8,000 feet. It is a regular winter visitor to the Quetta plains and valleys.

16-2-29. 10-11-29.—**Meadow Bunting** (*Emberiza cia*)—Quetta—never seen again in 3 years.

18-8-29.—**Indian Red Munia** (*Amandava amandava*)—Quetta—a small flock.

15 and 30-12-29.—**Asiatic Goldfinch.** *Carduelis caniceps*

3-4-30.—**Spanish Sparrow.** (*Passer hispaniolensis*). Quetta. The only one seen in 3 years though I was always on the look-out for it.

17-2-30. **Blackbird.** (*Turdus merula*). Quetta. The only one seen in 3 years. I think the birds recorded near Liarat must have been the Himalayan Whistling Thrush.

House Martin. (*Delichon urbica*) Definitely a common bird on all the high mountains round Quetta all through the spring and summer. I saw numbers of them when stalking and climbing on all the mountains throughout my three years in Baluchistan.

21-8-29. **Flamingos.** (*Phaenicopterus ruber*)—Khushdil Khan reservoir.

5-4-29.—**Pelicans.** (*Pelicanus sp.*)—Khushdil Khan reservoir—big flock—saw them on several other occasions.

12-2-30, 6-3-30, 19-4-31.—**Black-headed Gull.** (*Larus ridibundus*) Khushdil Khan reservoir and Quetta Valley—About 10 % were in breeding plumage (*cf.* Meinertzhagen).

15-10-30 and 16-10-31.—**Cream-coloured Courser.** (*Cursorius cursor*) two or three on each occasion near Sayid Hamid on Quetta-Chaman road.

QUETTA.

January 4, 1932.

E. F. NORTON,

Col.

[The author in submitting the above notes indicated that they were extracts from his field notes, accumulated during his stay in Quetta in 1929, 1930 and 1931. His purpose in writing them was to put down any points which differ from, or confirm doubtful points in, the paper on the Birds of Baluchistan by Dr. Ticehurst. (*Journal B.N.H.S.* vol. XXXI and XXXII.)—EDS.]

XI.—BULBULS IN CALCUTTA AND ITS SUBURBS.

Recently, public attention has been drawn in the columns of certain influential journals to the regrettable fact that some of our well-known and familiar birds are growing less and less abundant; and that some species and varieties are actually threatened with extinction in spite of the existence of protective measures. In this connection we would like to mention a class of universally-liked birds, viz. the Bulbuls. Poets have sung rapturously of the bulbuls in the past and bulbuls have not as yet lost their position as pets among the rich and poor alike. It must not be forgotten that fifty years ago a bulbul-fight was as popular a sport as a horse-race, and as enthusiastically joined in by all ranks of men from the highest to the lowest. But apart from other interests, historical or scientific, bulbuls are very agreeable birds and the decrease in their numbers cannot but detract from the charms of the country life. There are several species of bulbuls in this country and their range of distribution is very wide. We are however concerned here with those species only that are found in or about Calcutta.

The Bengal Bulbul, *Molpastes bengalensis* is known popularly as the *kala* or black bulbul. In size it approaches the English Red-backed Shrike. Although its colouring is sombre, it is considerably relieved by the delicate grey and white of the edges of many of its feathers. In suburban gardens and village shrubberies, the notes of the Bengal Bulbul imitating the sound 'hickory, dickory, dock' may be heard only in the season. They utter another cry, composed